**Role of SEB in Kerala's industrial progress**

1549 SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether any studies have been conducted by Government regarding role of State Electricity Board in Kerala's industrial progress,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether Government propose to implement any packages for the development of traditional industnes such as cpil, cashew, handloom, khadi etc , in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S ELANGOVAN). (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Revival of closed industries in Tamil Nadu**

1550 SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to identify the number of closed small, medium, large industries in Tamil Nadu during the last two years; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to revive such industries within the time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per the Third All India Census of registered Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units for the reference year 2001-02 conducted during November 2002 to June 2003, out of the total 1,80,032 units registered upto 31st March, 2001, the number of units found closed were 1,27,185 in the State of Tamil Nadu. Data on sick industrial units, assisted by Banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As per RBI report, 158 Non-SSI sick/weak category units were reported as closed .as at the end of March 2003 in Tamil Nadu. Labour Bureau, Shimla, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment collects information on closure of industrial units covered by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 As per information received from Labour Bureau, Shimla no closure has been reported for the year 2003 and 2004 in Central and State Sphere in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) Revival of closed industrial units comes under the purview of the administrative Ministry concerned with that particular unit. The Government provides a policy regime that facilitates and fosters growth and development of industries. The Government has also taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units in the country which, *inter alia,* include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 etc. Wherever feasible, rehabilitation schemes are sanctioned for the revival of these units registered with the BIFR which, *inter alia,* include restructuring of the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, including Government assistance for public sector units, merger with other companies, change of management, relief and concessions by Financial Institutions/Banks, and relief and concession by the State and Central Government in the form of rescheduling of dues.

**Differences with regard to amendment in Patent Act**

1551. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any differences are brewing up in the Government on the issue of amendment in the Patent Act; and

(b) how the Government proposes to overcome the differences in order to meet the dead-line of January 1,2005 under international obligation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Import of Horticulture Planting Material**

1552. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to import genuine horticulture planting material of favourable genotype from other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The Government